

4 OCT 2016

29. September 2016

Scanning Room



to
Director – Resources Assessments
Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment

regarding
Rocky Hill Coal Project – Application number SSD 5156

I oppose the Rocky Hill Coal Project for the reasons stated below.
I am not a member of any political party or opposition group and have made no reportable donations to such causes.

Dear Director,

a quick look at a map will show you that I live in Thunderbolt Estate on Jacks Road in Gloucester just a matter of a few hundred metres from the site of the Rocky Hill Coal Project. I moved to Gloucester in 2010 after retirement for the health benefits of fresh air and a stress free life. As a third generation asthma sufferer my symptoms have become more pronounced in my later years manifesting as chest problems and breathing difficulties. I have since spent over \$800,000 building my home and establishing a lifestyle conducive to a healthy life. I have used only local builders, tradesmen and businesses and so all my spending has gone into sustaining local business. I have become a member of many local clubs and volunteer organisations and so am contributing to the community.

Now with the Coal Project intended to be an open cut mine with blasting, dust and noise just one kilometre from my home my life is to become difficult once again.

The number of trucks moving from the proposed site to Stratford daily along the valley has been calculated as one per 6 minutes for 6 days a week for 3 years and then 7 days there after if they can get permission and this will pollute the air with diesel emissions and dust and if the wind is anything other than northerly, will bring those contaminants straight to my home.

The Rocky Hill Mine Company have sent a flyer to homes with their intentions and they have stated an upgrade of Jacks Road and the bridge thereon. This is to allow access to workers entering the site. Jacks Road is perfectly ok for family vehicles and the sort of upgrade intended can only be for larger and heavier vehicles that they intend to use on site. They own 2 other sites as yet unmined but close to the proposed site and their intention once they have a foot in the door will be to mine the other sites, when Jacks road will become an access and delivery road for much larger vehicles. They claim to be caring in the aesthetic surrounds of their mine but they also run the Duralie Mine to the south of us where the open cut scaring is quite open to see from the road in a family sedan. Their answer was to put a sight barrier alongside the road which is as unsightly as their open mine and any claim of beautification or rehabilitation of mine surrounds is farcical. One of the senior executives of Rocky Hill has stated that if they can mine in the main street of Gloucester then they will do so. Whilst this was a deliberate attempt to inflame and anger those opposing the mine it also indicates the mentality of the people involved. Recent news reports from the Hunter region has shown that these big companies cannot be trusted when it comes to preventing and reporting of incidents of contamination and care only for their profit bottom line.

This mine will be well inside the 5km distance from a school or housing development once

accepted as a suitable distance and so many local people will be affected by the same concerns as myself. I do not trust the Rocky Hill Company and their claim of supposed benefits for Gloucester Town of jobs, apprenticeships and donations is deceitful. Yancoal only last week laid off 50 workers from Duralie suggesting a decline in demand for coal as a fuel and even if a mine was allowed then those 50 workers would be first chosen with experience and so local unskilled people would not be selected. Any large demand for fuel and oils and services for a mine such as suggested would be sourced at price for demand and so would be delivered to the mine from the oil companies by tanker and not sourced from local garages and shops as they claim and the same goes for food and accommodation. Workers huts and dormitories are commonly used and not local renting or purchasing. The community has nothing to gain from this proposal and everything to lose. The health costs to the state would rise due to the pollution and stresses produced by the mine proximity to the living areas close by.

I built my house using solar power for water heating and back to base electricity in an attempt to lower my demands on the environment and coal as a source of power and steel generation is old world technology and such new mining should be replaced by new forms of technology.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Howlett', written in a cursive style.

Steven Howlett